#### **Funny Ladies**

The humor genre did not come natural to me. In fact, despite my love of memoirs, I avoided it for many years, preferring the more sordid, serious biographies of lives well lived. When a friend insisted that I read Laurie Notaro's <u>The Idiot Girls' Action Adventure Club</u>, I was skeptical at first, but shortly thereafter, hooked. From that day forward, a love of lady humor was born.

In the past couple of years, I have been treated to some of the most hilarious reads I've ever encountered in my literate life. These funny ladies relay their everyday misadventures with humor, perspective, and a touch of sentimentality that causes me to both laugh and whimper in the same paragraph. When a book is finished, I find myself satisfied with the having had a good belly laugh but instantly longing for more.

As summer settles in, consider checking out one or more of this entertaining reads and enjoy the side-splitting escapades of some truly talented women.

#### **Cool, Calm and Contentious** by Merrill Markoe

Markoe holds nothing back in this serious of personal essays. What do you get when you take a neurotic father, and angry mother, and a lifetime of stories? The recipe for comedic success. Travel with Markoe and learn what makes her tick.

### **Bossypants** by Tina Fey

Fey chronicles her childhood, to the start of her career in comedy, to her time on Saturday Night Live, and ends with the success of her current sitcom, *30 Rock*. Interspersed are stories about her family, her work life, and a celebrity or two.

"My ability to turn good news into anxiety is rivaled only by my ability to turn anxiety into chin acne". ~ Tina Fey.

## Is Everyone Hanging Out Without Me? By Mindy Kaling

Cambridge's own Kaling shares the story of her rise to success in Hollywood. A former writer and actor on the show *The Office*, Kaling will have her own sitcom starting in the fall: *The Mindy Project*. "Writing, at its heart, is a solitary pursuit, designed to make people depressoids, drug addicts, misanthropes, and antisocial weirdos." ~ Mindy Kaling.

## Jeneration X by Jen Lancaster

In the author's seventh book, she dishes on the many reluctant life lessons she's learned now that she is over the age of 40. Lancatser's humor, wit, and sharp tongue will leave fans laughing for days. An added bonus: The author reads the audio version with her trademark flare and hilarity.

## <u>Let's Pretend This Never Happened</u> by Jenny Lawson

Her dad was a taxidermist who let bobcats roam the house unattended. Her mother made pants for their pet raccoons. Add in a talking squirrel, a career in Human Resources, and a lifetime of dealing with infertility and anxiety issues, and you've got a blunt, hilarious, and poignant memoir. Bonus: The author

reads –and sings! – in the audio version.

"I'm pretty sure 'feral cats' is code for 'vampire cougars." ~ Jenny Lawson.

## Girl Walks Into a Bar by Rachel Dratch

The former Saturday Night Live comedienne recounts her life and career, from childhood, to acting, to present day parenthood.

# Ali In Wonderland by Ali Wentworth

Daughter of a former White House press secretary and wife of George Stephanopoulos, Wentworth's life has been surrounded with politics. Relaying tales of her rebellion to her career in Hollywood, Wentworth is one funny lady with a lot to say.

Other Humor Titles by some very funny ladies that are worth checking out:

My Boyfriend Wrote a Book About Me by Hilary Winston.

Agorafabulous! By Sara Benincasa

You Don't Sweat Much For a Fat Girl by Celia Rivenbark

<u>It Looked Different On the Model</u> by Laurie Notaro

Lies That Chelsea Handler Told Me by Chelsea Hanlder

Life As I Blow It by Sarah Colonna

Official Book Club Selection by Kathy Griffin